

(Mr. SANFORD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. ROUKEMA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MINGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KASICH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. HARMON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. HARMON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COBURN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LAFALCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EHLERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TALENT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SKAGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LABORERS' REFORM EFFORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) is recognized for 10 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, Clarence Darrow said, "With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in men than any other association of men."

The labor movement has played a vital role in making this country what it is today. Only 65 years ago the basic right to retire was beyond the means of most workers. One worked until one was physically unable to work anymore. Workers even when they were employed could barely support their families on a day-to-day basis. The prospect of being able to save enough money to retire, or buy a home or send a child to college was for most workers nonexistent. The fact that this is no longer the case is in large part a measure of the success of the labor movement.

The successes achieved by the labor movement did not come easily. Most worker rights were bitterly opposed by employers and their political allies. Moreover, labor's opponents have never been satisfied with merely opposing policies pursued on behalf of workers. More typically labor's opponents attack the very fabric of trade unionism. In doing so, they directly attack the well-being of working families.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about another attack that has been launched against the labor movement. In the American Spectator, in the Weekly Standard and on the editorial pages of the Wall Street Journal, charge after charge has been leveled against the Laborers' International Union. The reform efforts that the Laborers' have undertaken and the consent decree under which the union is operating have been assaulted.

Mr. Speaker, these articles regularly sling stupefying charges of continued mob control of the union by a recognized crime family without providing a shred of evidence or on-the-record attribution for allegations made. The common feature of these articles is that they make absolutely no mention of the real progress that has been made to ensure that the Laborers' is a democratic union controlled by and operated for the benefit of rank-and-file members.

Today there is an effort under way at the Laborers' Union that represents one of the most innovative, cost-effective programs ever undertaken to rid a union of mob influence. The reform effort is still a work in progress. It is premature to render judgment regarding its ultimate success. However, Mr. Speaker, the progress that has been made is truly impressive. To ignore, misrepresent or dismiss it is not just disingenuous but may deny workers and the government a model for the future that does a better job of promoting and protecting union democracy than other means that we have tried in the past.

Corruption in the Laborers' Union was investigated for decades, with little to show for the effort. Finally, the U.S. Justice Department informed the union that it would take legal action to take control of the union just as it had done with the Teamsters Union.

The union and its leaders facing this critical decision and knowing how serious the problem was could have chosen